

July 30, 1999

IN MEMORY OF FEDERAL JUDGE
FRANK M. JOHNSON, JR.

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Federal Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. As a federal judge, Judge Johnson's decisions literally shaped the future and the force of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. As an individual, he was a man whose commitment to his ideals and the law did not wane, despite considerable personal risk and significant sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, it is vital that Congress honor Judge Johnson for both of these roles, and to recognize the loss that his recent death represents.

Judge Johnson served on the U.S. District Court in Montgomery, Alabama, for twenty-five years, during the height of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. In that time he made several decisions that formed the thrust of the civil rights movement. In 1956, when deliberating the Montgomery bus boycott case, he outlawed segregation on public transportation, in parks, restaurants, libraries and schools. In the 1960s, Judge Johnson also signed the original order to integrate the University of Alabama, as well as the order to allow Martin Luther King Jr. and voting rights activists to march from Selma to Montgomery. Moreover, Judge Johnson participated in the decision that ultimately became the "one man, one vote" principal put forth by the Supreme Court.

Clearly, Judge Johnson's contribution to the civil rights movement was both significant and integral to its ultimate success. His impact was felt not only in Montgomery, but throughout the South and the nation as well. One must wonder to what extent the civil rights movement would have succeeded without the support, honesty, and courage of Judge Johnson.

While these decisions are hailed today as just and honest, Judge Johnson faced severe criticism, damaging slander, and even personal danger in the time that he made them. Then Governor George Wallace fueled his gubernatorial race by denouncing Judge Johnson, while his mother's home was bombed and a burning cross was placed on his own lawn. Yet Judge Johnson did not abandon his principles or his commitment to the law. He simply upheld the Constitution and did not question the consequences.

Judge Johnson was truly a great man, whose unwavering principles are too rare today. As a legislator, former judge and lawyer, I am personally inspired by Judge Johnson's commitment to the law, and am grateful for his influence and the example he set for us all. Indeed, I am fully aware that I was able to become the first African American Federal Judge in Florida because of the principles Judge Johnson promoted and the opportunities he made possible for the African Americans of my generation.

Today, I remember him for these opportunities, the strides he made in civil rights, the definition he gave to the movement, and most of all, his commitment to what he perceived as

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right and just. Judge Johnson deserves this recognition, and I hope my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this legacy that he has left after him.

**DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF
NONDISCRIMINATORY TREAT-
MENT TO PRODUCTS OF PEOPLES
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition of providing normal-trade-relations status to the People's Republic of China, because China continues to deny the greater part of its citizenry the most basic human rights; because it engages in the worse kinds of religious, political, and ethnic persecution; because it bullies neighboring countries; and because it undermines international stability by exporting missiles and nuclear technology to some of the world's leading rogue nations.

Every year, we are told that normal-trade-relations status promotes continued economic growth and human rights in the People's Republic of China. While this trade has helped China expand its economy and improve the living standards of a relatively small number of its citizens, I believe it is an absolute stretch of the imagination to argue that China's economic growth has benefited the vast majority of its 1.5 billion citizens who continue to be denied—oftentimes forcibly—the freedom to think, speak, read, worship and vote as they wish.

I simply cannot agree with those who argue that normal-trade-relations will one day result in improved human rights in China as the government of that vast nation continues to violate human rights on a massive scale.

For example, the people of Tibet have been subject to especially harsh treatment by the Chinese Government because their culture and religion are inseparable from the movement that seeks full Tibetan freedom from China—a movement that has been brutally suppressed by the Chinese Government since the late 1940's when armed Chinese forces drove the Dalai Lama into exile.

Since then, the Chinese Government has stepped up its efforts to discredit the Dalai Lama as well as its campaign to eradicate the ancient culture and traditions of Tibet. In May 1994, a new ban on the possession and display of photographs of the Dalai Lama, resulted in a raid of monasteries in which Buddhist priests were brutally beaten by Chinese military personnel.

And it is not just the Buddhists that have been victims of this harassment. Since 1996, all religious institutions in China must register with the state. The failure to do so results in the closure of such institutions—or worse. For example, Human Rights Watch—Asia reports that unofficial Protestant and Catholic communities have been harassed, with congregants arrested, fined, sentenced, and beaten.

Even as recently as July 20, 1999, the Chinese Government has implemented large-

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scale arrests of Falun Gong practitioners in different parts of China. Falun Gong is a widely practiced meditation exercise that upholds the principles of truth, compassion, and forbearance. Although it has no political motivation or agenda, the Chinese Government has officially banned it as an illegal operation.

Sadly, China's policies have not changed since the United States and China have normalized trade relations. It has persisted on following policies that threaten to make it an increasingly disruptive force among all other nations. China's continuing and growing practice of selling advanced weapons and nuclear technology to Iran, Iraq and other rogue nations, not to mention their theft of U.S. nuclear technology, makes it a threat to world peace.

It should be remembered that, like China today, South Africa had a growing economy, a growing middle class—albeit racially limited, a significant United States business presence, and a severely repressive government. And, just like the arguments supporting normal trade relations with China, it was argued that continued and increased United States trade with South Africa would bring about the economic, social, and political reforms that would inevitably force the South African Government to dismantle apartheid.

However, despite our continued trade relations, the Government of South Africa continued and, in fact, stepped up its campaign of repression and terror, including kidnapping, torture, jailing, and murder, to maintain apartheid. It took a worldwide trade embargo—not, increased trade—to convince a previously intractable South Africa to transform itself into the open and democratic society that it is today. The embargo—not, our previous policy of "constructive engagement"—convinced the South African leadership to, among other things, release Nelson Mandela from 27 years of imprisonment and recognize the African National Congress.

It took the Western World losing patience with the broken promises of the South African Government to bring about change.

It is time that we lose our patience with the People's Republic of China.

**HONORING MARIA MORALES FOR
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to stand and honor my good friend, Maria Morales who, at the age of 105, passed away July 27th. Maria was a resident of Casa Otonal, an Hispanic residential and service community in New Haven, Connecticut.

Living for over a century, Maria witnessed many sweeping changes to our Nation's history. Born in Juana Diaz, Puerto Rico, she came to Connecticut with her son in 1958. For over 20 years she was an active and committed member of the Casa Otonal Senior Center—sharing a myriad of stories with her many friends and family. I often spoke with Maria during my many visits to Casa Otonal. Bright and articulate, she was well-versed in